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PRESS CONFERENCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Secretary's Interview with Pakistan Television

I. Latent Information

--New Pakistan government appears to be gaining greater credibility.

o Benazir Bhutto's July 5 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) rallies failed to attract mass turnouts which characterized earlier gatherings celebrating her return home.

o Recent public opinion polls indicate most Pakistanis want to give new government a chance to prove itself; virtually no one wants return of martial law which widespread agitation almost certainly would occasion.

--Increased Pakistani apprehension over presence of Afghan refugees, particularly in urban areas near border, has become evident.

o Concern clearly result numerous refugee related terrorist incidents in Peshawar and Baluchistan.

o Despite heightened concern, Pakistanis remain remarkably hospitable to presence of world's largest refugee community.

II. Key Points

--U.S. looks forward to Prime Minister Junejo's first visit to Washington next week.

--We have welcomed Pakistan's move toward restoration of democracy.

--The U.S. has maintained strong bilateral relations with Pakistan since its independence in 1947. Recently agreed upon six year follow-on economic and security assistance program totalling over \$4 billion.

--Security assistance recognizes fact that Pakistan is front line state; presence of Soviet army across border has changed dramatically the threat confronting Pakistan.

--U.S. admires hospitality Pakistan has demonstrated in offering refuge to Afghans uprooted by brutal war. We share a common desire to see Afghan independence and non-alignment restored.

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Pakistan: U.S. Supercomputer Sale to India

Q. Why is the U.S. prepared to sell India a supercomputer, which could be used to help make nuclear weapons?

A. -- The U.S. Government is prepared to license the sale of a supercomputer to India if agreement can be reached on an adequate safeguards regime. Such a regime would ensure that the supercomputer and the technology included in it are used only for peaceful purposes and are not provided to or otherwise benefit outside parties.

-- Details of such a regime are still being worked out, prior to initiating formal discussions with the Government of India. It is not possible to speculate on the contents of the regime. Obviously, given the high level of technology involved, exceptional safeguards will be necessary.

-- By providing high technology to both India and Pakistan, our intention is to increase the pace of economic development and to improve the stability of the region.

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Pakistan: Path of Democratization:

Q. In the United States pleased with the pace of the transition to democracy in Pakistan? Does the U.S. Administration agree with calls for early elections?

A. -- The United States welcomed the decision at the end of 1985 by the Government of Pakistan to lift martial law. This fulfilled the GOP's pledge to reestablish constitutional government, based upon representative institutions.

-- The question of timing of elections in Pakistan is solely a matter for the Pakistanis to determine. We are delighted that government supporters and opposition alike are now able to exercise their full constitutional rights for public political debate.

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Pakistan: Nuclear Program

Q. What do you think about the continued rumors that Pakistan may proceed with a nuclear weapons program? Is it true, as Indian papers reported last year, that Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi said President Reagan told him that India could "stop" the Pakistan nuclear program?

- A. -- We remain concerned about nuclear activities in both India and Pakistan. This is an issue that, in the first instance, countries in the region should solve.
- The U.S. position is that the prospect of nuclear proliferation in South Asia poses a danger to all of the countries in the region. It is in the interest -- and capability -- of both India and Pakistan to reduce this threat by working together to solve the problem.
- We have made it clear to Pakistan that our program of security assistance presumes that the GOP will exercise restraint in the nuclear area.

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Periodic Human Rights Violations

Q. What do you think about allegations of human rights abuses in Pakistan?

- A. -- The United States has encouraged the return to representative, constitutional government in Pakistan. We will continue to urge that the full protection of the Pakistani Constitution be provided to each citizen.
- American diplomats in Pakistan remain alert to any allegations that civil rights have been violated. We have inquired, and will continue to do so, into individual cases as we become aware of them.

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~~Pakistan Improvement of Digitalization Aid
for Kibana~~

Q: According to some Western journalists, Pakistan is delaying the implementation of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. What is the United States' comment on these reports?

A: -- We maintain Pakistan has been in the forefront of efforts to aid the Afghan people affected by the Soviet occupation of their country.

-- Our humanitarian aid program for war-affected Afghans has been underway since the summer of 1985. We have obligated all of the \$8 million allocated in FY-85 and we anticipate no difficulty in obligating the \$15 million appropriated this fiscal year.

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Pakistan: Delay of Media Assistance Program

Q. Some journalists have suggested that the progress on the \$500,000 program to establish an Afghan News Agency is being held up by Pakistan. What comment does the United States' have on this report?

A. -- We feel the government of Pakistan shares our interest in encouraging the development of independent Afghan capabilities for collecting and distributing credible, objective and timely news stories about the war in Afghanistan.

-- The U.S. is working closely with Pakistan to develop both the required expertise and means for achieving this objective.

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